

REMARKS

The Office Action presents a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring Applicant to elect for substantive examination the invention of one of six groups allegedly present in the application as filed. In particular, the Office Action identifies the following groups of claims:

- Group I, claims 1-25, drawn to an apparatus for extracting and amplifying DNA;
- Group II, claims 26-39, drawn to methods of extracting and amplifying DNA;
- Group III, claims 40-42, drawn to a purification stage;
- Group IV, claims 43-45, drawn to a method of purifying DNA;
- Group V, claims 46-52, drawn to a microfluidic apparatus for extracting and amplifying DNA; and
- Group VI, claims 53-57, drawn to a method of purifying DNA using a microfluidic device.

In response to these requirements, **Applicant hereby elects for examination Group I (claims 1-25)** without traverse. Examination on the merits is requested. Claims 26-57 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Application No. 10/552,159
Response to Restriction Requirement and Amendment

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner examine the application upon the merits, and that the above remarks be fully considered in conjunction therewith. Timely allowance of all currently pending claims and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are requested.

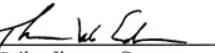
Applicant has filed this Response and Amendment without increasing the number of claims above the number previously submitted or paid for. Accordingly, no additional claims fees are believed to be due at the present time. If such fees or any other fees associated with the filing of this paper are due at this time, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349. Also, please credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1349.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative via telephone if such would expedite prosecution of this application toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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